



(Photo by Spc. Shea Butler, 7th MPAD)

A Cav-worthy Birthday Cake-cutting!

Lt. Col. Bruce Allen (left) and Pfc. Rolando Trinidad (right), the oldest and youngest troops of the Multi-National Division - Baghdad along with the MND-B commanding general, Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr. (center), cut the Army's 232nd birthday cake at the division's headquarters on Camp Liberty in western Baghdad June 14.

Food Service Soldiers Prepare for Army's Birthday

By Sgt. Robert Yde
2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PROSPERITY, Iraq - An Army celebration would not be complete without the cutting of a cake, so as the Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division prepared to celebrate the Army's 232nd

birthday June 14, the Soldiers and staff of the dining facility were busy the day prior putting the final touches on several cakes that would be on display in the Black Jack Bistro, the dining facility here.

Holidays are a time when food service Soldiers get to show off some of their creativity, however the art of cake dec-

orating is not a basic skill taught to these Soldiers. Many of these Soldiers have very little or no experience decorating cakes, but luckily the DFAC's lead baker, Prince Prashanttan, does and they were able to rely on and learn from his wealth of knowledge.

"A lot of people pay good money to go to school to learn

things like this," said Spc. Shelly Martinez, a food service specialist with the 15th Brigade Support Battalion.

The San Antonio native said that this was her first attempt at cake decorating and she learned a lot from the experience.

"It's been a wonderful

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Sadr City Raid Nets Large Cache, Six Suspects

MND-B Public Affairs

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - Multi-National Division - Baghdad troops teamed up with a platoon of Iraqi National Police to conduct a targeted raid in the eastern Baghdad Sadr City District June 13, seizing a sizeable weapons cache and six suspects.

The early morning raid began before 3 a.m., as members of 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment and a platoon of Iraqi National Police arrived at the target location.

The troops found three complete 60mm mortar systems, one complete 82mm mortar system, one complete 120mm mortar system, four 120mm mortar rounds, 32 60mm mortar rounds, three 107mm rockets, one rifle scope, two AK-47 rifles, two sets of body armor and a

variety of weapons manuals.

Six suspects were seized in the raid at the site. All six are being held for further questioning.



(U.S. Army photo)

Mortar systems and munitions are laid out for inventory following an early morning raid in the eastern Baghdad Sadr City District June 13.

Baghdad in Brief

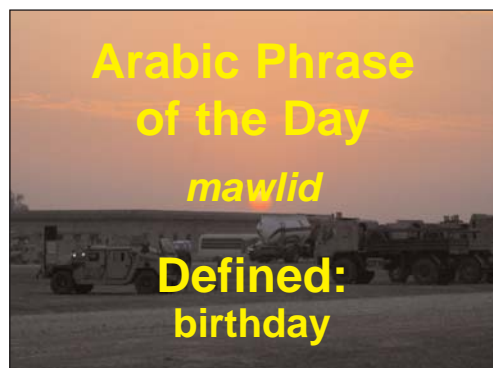
Extremist Attacks Thwarted

BAGHDAD - Ten insurgents were killed by Multi-National Division-Baghdad troops from the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division in six separate direct fire incidents in the West Rashid District of southern Baghdad June 13 and 14.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment "Vanguards" and 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment "Black Lions" engaged and killed enemy following a series of roadside bomb and small arms fire ambushes and other attacks.

"The heightened enemy activity in the predominantly Shia area of West Rashid is believed to be in response to the attack on the Shiite Al-Askariya Mosque in Samarra," said Maj. Kirk Luedeke, spokesperson and public affairs officer for the 4th IBCT based out of Fort Riley, Kan.

Enemy forces also launched a series of indirect fire attacks in the district throughout the day, killing one Iraqi resident in the Saydiyah neighborhood. No MND-B casualties were taken during any of the attacks.



Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 109
Low: 81



Tomorrow

High: 111
Low: 81



Sunday

High: 111
Low: 82

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'Dark Horse' Leader Reflects**What Does it Take to be an Army Dad?**

By Spc. Alexis Harrison
2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PROSPERITY, Iraq - In the movie "We Were Soldiers" a young lieutenant who'd recently become a father asks Mel Gibson's character, Lt. Col. Hal Moore, what he thought about being a Soldier and a father.

"I hope that being good at one makes me better at the other," Moore replied.

Moore's words spoke volumes about the relationship a father has with his children and the relationship a leader has with his Soldiers. For one senior noncommissioned officer, the word leadership is completely synonymous with fatherhood.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Daniels, the top noncommissioned officer for the 4th "Dark Horse" Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, has been in the Army for more than two and a half decades. Although his military career is long and, according to him, nowhere near close to an end, it's only about a year longer than he has been a father.

Twenty-five years ago, Daniels enlisted into the military with full support from his entire family. Two of his brothers were already in, so it made the decision a little easier on his family. They knew what to expect. More importantly, his father, a pastor at the time, gave him his blessing.

"He was a great mentor," he said. "I followed him everywhere he went. He had his Bible; I had my Bible.

"He told me to cherish your family," Daniels recalled. "They will always be there for you through thick and thin. You will always have your family to fall back on. The closer you are to your family, the stronger the bonds are, and no one can break those ties."

Daniels said that his father had a huge role in his own fathering skills after he had his first child, Latrice.

Shortly after having his first child, Daniels was assigned to a station in Germany where his dependants weren't allowed to go with him. This was his first

test as a father in the military

"[The deployment] taught me that being away and still having that bond, you really don't lose anything," he said.

Early in Daniels' career, things like mid-tour leave didn't exist. He and his family had to rely on the bonds created from triumph and tragedy.

His first child was killed in a motor vehicle accident when he was only 18 years old. Although the pain was great, Daniels said it made his family even stronger.

"It strengthens you," he said. "It makes you closer as a family to lose a loved one, much like during a deployment."

Daniels' advice to fathers not only in his squadron, but to all service members is simple: build strong relationships and bonds with your family while you can. They'll rely on those bonds while you're away. He noted that if good bonds are made, they are almost impossible to break and your family will appreciate its time with you that much more.

The troops from the Dark Horse Squadron, who Daniels watches over, have a multi-faceted job in Iraq. Not only do they guard the base with heavy machine guns atop towers along its perimeter; they maintain peace in what used to be a violent, volatile area just north of the International Zone in the heart of the city.

For many fathers in 4-9, this isn't the first time away from their families. Although the many veterans are well-honed warriors, they admit that leaving their wives, daughters, sons and friends doesn't get any easier no matter how many times they do it.

To help his Soldiers, Daniels assumes the role of a father figure every time he sees them. He said that many of the little things like a pat on the back or a few words of encouragement can make all the difference.

The origin of Father's Day can be traced back as far as 1909 when Sonora Smart-Dodd first came up with the idea to honor her father for what he'd done.

William Smart was a Civil War veteran who was widowed and left to raise his



(Courtesy photo)

Command Sgt. Maj. James Daniels, the senior noncommissioned officer for 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, stands with his wife, Marilyn, and two daughters, Demeka and Janel, during a family gathering.

six children on a farm near Spokane, Wash.

Dodd was at a Mother's Day sermon when the idea came to her. About a year later, the mayor of Spokane chose the month of June to celebrate the American father because June was the month of William Smart's birthday.

It wasn't until 1966 when former President Lyndon Johnson declared the third Sunday in June to be considered Father's Day for a national observance.

In 1972, former President Richard Nixon signed the bill making it law declaring Father's Day a national holiday.

For people like Daniels, it's more than just a holiday, especially while he's deployed. It's a time for him to reflect on not only his accomplishments, but those of his children and his Soldiers.

Daniels said one of the most rewarding things about being a father and a leader is watching those you look after flourish and grow into something to be proud of. Whether it be his children attending college with aspirations of becoming doctors, or his Soldiers making it to the next rank of responsibility, Daniels said seeing them succeed is about as rewarding as it gets to him.

(Background photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim, 2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Soldiers Work Army Birthday from Cake to Cutting

Birthday From Page 1

experience," she said. "We have Prince back here, and he is an excellent teacher."

Panshanttan, a native of Sri Lanka, is employed with a contracting company and has worked at the Black Jack Bistro since April.

According to the 2nd BCT Food Service Supervisor, Sgt.

1st Class Denise Worsley, Panshanttan takes great pride in the presentation of every cake he prepares.

"Every item he puts out is to perfection," Sgt. 1st Class Denise Worsley said of Prince's work. "Doing Betty Crocker or Duncan Hines at home is not the same."

As they worked on the cakes throughout the day, Worsley, who is originally from

Philadelphia, said that her Soldiers were able to rotate through in order to learn some of the finer points of cake decorating - a skill they will be able to employ throughout their careers.

"It's just a great opportunity, especially to be able to take it back to the States and working the DFACs back home," Martinez said. "Being able to present something like this back home is just wonderful."



(Photo by Dergham Turki, 2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Sgt. 1st Class Denise Worsley, the Food Service Supervisor for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, puts the final touches on one of the cakes made for the Army's birthday celebration at Forward Operating Base Prosperity in central Baghdad June 13.



(Photo by Sgt. Robert Yde, 2-1 Cav. PA)

The top noncommissioned officer for the 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Command Sgt. Maj. James Lee slices a birthday cake at the Black Jack Bistro during the brigade's observance of the Army's 232nd birthday June 14 at Forward Operating Base Prosperity in central Baghdad.

Happy Birthday From Fort Hood

Pvt. Drew Kirschner, a 17-year-old native of Augusta, Ga., and a generator mechanic with the 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, cuts the cake with Sgt. Maj. William Wallace, a 50-year-old native of Troy, Ala., and the division's rear detachment senior non-commissioned officer June 14 at Fort Hood's Cooper Field.



(Photo by Sgt. Robert Strain, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Love in This 'Chick Flick' Not Convincing

I am a girl. I like to be girly and I think calling someone a female is like labeling a cow (like the one milk comes from, not like a fat person).

I keep my toenails painted and my nails filed and make sure my room smells good. I even have fake daisies next to my bed here. So, it is a pretty good guess, (even if this is the first time you have read one of my reviews), to assume that I am a "chick flick" fan.

I love watching people fall in love. I love watching people have their first kiss. I cry when they cry. That's just the way I roll.

With that being said, when I pick up a movie that screams "love story," I automatically assume that I am going to like it.

Sadly, however, I was overtly disappointed after watching the Warner Brothers' flick "The Lake House."

The concept of the movie was great. Two people were brought together by a magic mail box and a house that stands on stilts. (It sounds cool, but really it is just on the lake). But it twisted reality. They are really two years apart. I don't mean in age, either. Sandra Bullock plays, Kate, who is a lonely doctor moving to a larger hospital in Chicago in 2006. Keanu Reeves, or Alex, is a frustrated architect trying to reconnect with his family in 2004.

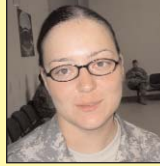
OK, the magic of the scenario automatically dictates that these two must fall in love. Seriously, sending letters back and forth through an enchanted mail box... that is some sort of cosmic intervention and it must be respected. They have to fall in love. It's some sort of Hollywood rule. Honest.

So they do, but you just don't get that. It just isn't believable.

The conversation that passes between

Random Review

By Sgt.
Nicole Kojetin

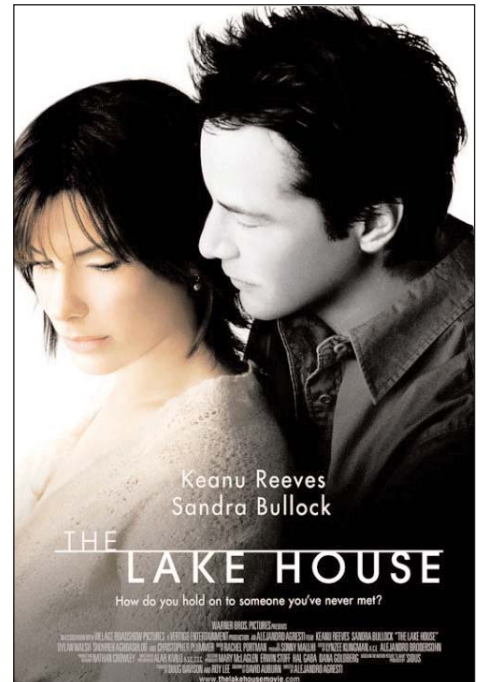


them through their letters doesn't seem like enough to make someone all soft and mushy inside.

They talk about little things, but it never really shows their personalities. Bullock does a great job staring off into the distance with the watery doe-eyed look, but the emotion just isn't conveyed.

I don't particularly like Keanu Reeves, either. Yeah, yeah... he's good looking, but he always comes across very emotionless, like he is reading off a cue card. He does do twitchy very well, but for the love of all that is holy, don't ask him to cry. It was a mess. I felt like I was watching one of my nephews throw a fit and was waiting for him to peek out from the crook in his arm with a grin on his face.

Just cast Keanu as a manly-man in an



(Courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures)

action film. Spare us the agony.

To spare yourself the agony, don't watch this film.

(1 out of 5 stars!)



First Team

POWER THOUGHT

"I CAN SAVE MY OWN LIFE"

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

I am responsible for my own safety both on and off post.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Because I AM important, my friends and family love me, My unit needs me, and my nation is depending on me.

